

Parent Guide

We are excited to share this content with you. If you are interested in finding more resources made especially for Parents, then check out these links to different areas of the **Twinkl Parents** hub.



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SEND Support



Subject Guides

Pregnancy & Baby



Health & Wellbeing

Supporting Learning



What is this resource and how do I use it?

Part of a detailed series of resources on 'Supporting Your Child's Learning in Reception', this parent guide gives you an overview of the learning goals outlined in the understanding the world topic, including information on what your child may be taught at school and practical, fun ideas for how you can support them to develop their skills and understanding at home.

What is the focus of this resource?

EYFS Framework

Supporting Your Child

Reception

Understanding the World

Further Ideas and Suggestions

Understanding the world covers quite a few topics but don't worry! From **experiments** to **worksheets**, **stories** to **outdoor activities**, the Early Years team at Twinkl Parents Hub have got you covered!

Parents Blog



Parenting Wiki



Parenting Podcast



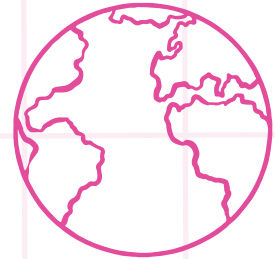
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Parents Hub

Understanding the World

What is understanding the world?

Understanding the world acts as an introduction to subjects your child will learn about later in their school journey, such as science, history, geography and religious education. It encourages your child to be inquisitive and develop respect for the world, people and animals.



In early years, understanding the world is one of the specific areas of learning and there are three aspects within it:

Past and Present

People, Culture and Communities

The Natural World

The following pages contain more information on each early learning goal and how you can support your child to meet this end of year expectation at home. Visit these areas on the Parents Hub for amazing resources to help you make learning at home fun!

People and Cultures Around the World

People Who Help Us

Exploring the Outdoors Ages 3-5

How will my child be taught understanding the world in school?

Every school is different so it's best to talk to your child's teacher or look on their website for more information. Many schools have topics which will drive learning about the world, such as 'People Who Help Us' or 'Where Do Frogs Live?'. They often celebrate or explore different festivals from a range of cultures. Your child also learns about the world through visiting different places, reading books, watching videos and listening to music.

Past and Present

Please remember, the early learning goals are the expectation for the end of reception. Your child will be working towards these throughout the year, gradually building on their skills. They don't have to be able to do everything all at once!

Early Learning Goal

Children at the expected level of development will:

- talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society.
- know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.

How can I support my child at home?

- Get out the photo albums and talk about your family. Reminisce about past events such as holidays (bearing in mind that a four-year-old has a limited memory of the past!).
- If you can, visit a museum where your child can see historical objects and talk about similarities and differences between items that people had at home in the past and what they have now.
- Look at old toys and compare them with toys today. You could do this through books, museum visits or even photos from your own childhood. Ask grandparents to get involved too!
- Read books that show life in the past - 'Peepo!' by Allan and Janet Ahlberg is a great one for this, with all its beautifully detailed illustrations. Talk about what your child can see.
- Investigate people who help us in the local community - do you have a lollipop person? Does your child know why they are important? Books can be helpful with this (the Topsy and Tim series has lots of examples of different people who help us) and your child might also enjoy games such as this people who help us-themed [Who Am I Guessing Game](#).
- Use role play or small world play to explore people who help us and the past.

Disclaimer: We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.

Outdoor areas provide great opportunities for play and learning, but always check for any environmental risks before taking part in outdoor activities, and only proceed if it is safe to do so. Ensure children always wash their hands after being outside. Please be respectful of nature and take care of animals and plants. We will not be held responsible for the health and safety of those participating in activities, and cannot accept any liability. By organising or participating in any activity described, you acknowledge that it is the responsibility of supervising adults to ensure the safety of children in their care.

People, Culture and Communities

Early Learning Goal

Children at the expected level of development will:

- describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- know some similarities and differences between religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps.



How can I support my child at home?

- Talk to other members of the family, such as grandparents, about family traditions at special times such as Christmas and birthdays.
- Talk about how you may have different customs to your family, friends or your child's friends. 'We always go to Grandma's on Christmas Day but Sam's family stay at their house,' or 'We visit the temple but Jane's family go to church.' Encourage your child to see and celebrate differences.
- When you've done something special, such as a day out or a family wedding, help your child make a scrapbook or draw a picture and talk about some of the things they recall and enjoyed. Encourage them to take this to school to discuss it with their teacher and classmates.
- Explore different cultures through books, museums, festivals and photographs.
- Twinkl Parents Hub has lots of amazing 'Explore' booklets that can help your child learn about different countries and cultures from the comfort of their home! Browse our **People and Cultures Around the World** category to find an 'Explore' booklet to get your child started!
- Go for walks! Explore your local area together and discuss which way you should go, e.g. 'Shall we walk past the church or go round the fields today?' Support your child to build up knowledge about the area where they live.
- Children often love to draw maps (usually with treasure involved!). Work together to draw maps to show their route to school. You could make it playful by incorporating their toys - perhaps they need to make a map for their toy cars!

The Natural World

Early Learning Goal

Children at the expected level of development will:

- explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.
- know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Be playful, inquisitive and respectful and your child will be too!

How can I support my child at home?

- Get outside! Spend as much time as you can outside with your child, in all weathers if possible. Let them explore and investigate.
- We know it can be hard to get outside in the chillier months but we have a **host of resources** to inspire you and your child for all seasons!
- Keep a weather diary and talk about changes through the day or the year. Even just commenting on what the weather looks like each day is a good step to developing an understanding about the natural world.
- Put a white sheet under a bush, shake the bush and look at the creatures that emerge. Talk about how they are similar and different.
- Encourage your child to draw pictures of natural objects or take photographs of different plants around them. Can they compare the different shapes of the leaves?
- Use sensory trays to explore different natural objects and materials.
- Can they talk about the seasons and when some trees might lose their leaves? Explore each season as it comes. Have a look in our **Weather and Seasons** category for inspiration.
- Explore changes such as melting and freezing. Cooking activities can help with this!
- Explore ice and what happens to it when you sprinkle salt or food colouring onto it. 'Ice balloons' are great fun – fill a balloon with water, freeze, then peel the balloon off and explore.
- Draw around the edge of a puddle with some chalk and encourage your child to revisit it throughout the day - what has happened?
- Ask your child 'why' and 'how' questions.
- Don't be afraid to say you don't know the answer to a question! Explore how you might find out together.